

MEETING SUMMARY

Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Steering Committee Meeting #6

Thursday, September 25, 2014 | 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Cameron Station Clubhouse Great Room

1 Steering Committee Members Present

- Mindy Lyle, Steering Committee Chair, Planning Commission
- Judy Coleman, Steering Committee Vice Chair, Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission
- Michael Adams, Community Representative
- Arthur Impastato, Community Representative
- David Heiden, Business Representative
- Agn  s Artemel, Business Representative
- Mary Catherine Gibbs, Business Representative
- Ken Wire, Landowner Group Representative

2 City and Project Staff Present

- Mayor William Euille
- Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager
- Karl Moritz, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Susan Eddy, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Radhika Mohan, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Ryan Price, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Juliana Villabona, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Katherine Carraway, Department of Planning and Zoning

3 Welcome and Follow Up

- Mindy Lyle, Chair of the Steering Committee, welcomed members and made introductory remarks
- Mr. Moritz reviewed the purpose for this meeting as well as that of the upcoming community meeting on Monday, September 29th. Both meetings will strive to organize the information received from the community into a concise set of goals for the Eisenhower West SAP, as well as look spatially at the area (e.g., focusing on centers and connections).
- Mr. Moritz also reminded committee members of two upcoming meetings: November 10th will focus on transportation, existing conditions and market studies; December 8th will be the 4th community meeting focusing on conceptual land use options.

Staff Presentation

- Mr. Moritz began the presentation suggesting that the group review expectations for the EW SAP planning process, identify building blocks, and take a step back to determine if the goals cover the appropriate subjects and corresponding elements.
- Ms. Eddy reviewed the agenda for the upcoming community meeting.

The following is a summary of the discussion.

4 EW SAP Goals

- Ms. Artemel shared her thoughts on staff's [draft goals](#) circulated following Steering Committee Meeting #5, indicating that they should be at a higher, more general level and focus on the following building blocks: economic development (key to making the area successful); Van Dorn metro (underutilized); issues with Van Dorn Street (making it pedestrian friendly); implementation should be in a phased approach.
 - All of Ms. Artemel's suggested goals as well as other committee member comments can be found [here](#).
- They began reviewing the goals presented at SC Meeting #5. Draft goals resulting from this discussion can be found [here](#). Below are summary points raised by committee members:
 - *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT*
 - Economic development is key to creating a thriving community; it's important not to just create jobs in the area but to also maintain existing businesses.
 - *LAND USE*
 - It is important to have a wide variety of uses in the area.
 - *HOUSING*
 - The group decided that housing was not a separate goal category, but rather that housing should be addressed under the land use goal.
 - *BUILDING HEIGHT AND SIZE*
 - The group decided that building height and size is not a goal, but that TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITY is.
 - *NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER AND SERVICES*
 - The group decided that neighborhood character and services is not a goal, but is a result of the goals.
 - *STREETSCAPE AND PUBLIC SPACE*
 - The goal should be renamed to promote a pedestrian friendly area.
 - *CIRCULATION AND CONNECTIVITY*
 - The goal is to have access to the area for all City residents and visitors; this goal should precede the Streetscape goal.
 - *PARKS, OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES*
 - The group worked to modify this goal (see revised draft goals above).
 - *SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT*
 - The group agreed that this goal should focus on an issue specific to the area. Other City policies already address general sustainability and environmental concerns.
 - *IMPLEMENTATION*
 - This goal is more appropriate for the study, but not for the plan area.

5 Eisenhower West SAP Vision Statement

- Mr. Moritz opened the discussion regarding a new draft vision statement based on the goals established during this meeting.
- Committee members questioned the necessity for a vision statement right now, suggesting that goals will suffice.
- The group agreed that creating a vision statement at this point is premature.
- It is important to incorporate existing citywide policies into the plan.

6 Community Meeting #3

- Ms. Eddy described the agenda and activities planned for the next community meeting, with the ultimate goal of having a framework. The focus will be on:
 - Nodes (centers)
 - Parks
 - Connections (roads/trails/sidewalks)
- Committee members shared concern with identifying parks on a map at this point in the process. They asked for staff to create an alternate focus. Ms. Eddy suggested prioritization of types of parks and open space.

7 Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Community Meeting #3, Monday, September 24th, 7:00pm, Beatley Library
- Committee members permitted staff to share their contact information with fellow members.